

§ 476.102

the collection, processing, and dissemination of information on health care services.

Subcontractor means a facility or a non-facility organization under contract with a PRO to perform PRO review functions.

[50 FR 15359, Apr. 17, 1985; 50 FR 41886, Oct. 16, 1985]

§ 476.102 Statutory bases for acquisition and maintenance of information.

(a) Section 1154(a)(7)(C) of the Act requires PROs to the extent necessary and appropriate to examine the pertinent records of any practitioner or provider of health care services for which payment may be made under Title XVIII of the Act.

(b) Section 1154(a)(9) of the Act requires PROs to collect and maintain information necessary to carry out their responsibilities under the Act.

(c) Section 1156(a)(3) of the Act requires health care practitioners and providers to maintain evidence of the medical necessity and quality of health care services they provide to Medicare patients as required by PROs.

§ 476.103 Statutory bases for disclosure of information.

(a) Section 1154(a)(10) of the Act requires PROs to exchange information with intermediaries and carriers with contracts under sections 1816 and 1842 of the Act, other PROs, and other public or private review organizations as appropriate.

(b) Section 1160 of the Act provides that PRO information must be held in confidence and not be disclosed except where—

(1) Necessary to carry out the purpose of Title XI Part B of the Act;

(2) Specifically permitted or required under this subpart;

(3) Necessary, and in the manner prescribed under this subpart, to assist Federal and State agencies recognized by the Secretary as having responsibility for identifying and investigating cases or patterns of fraud or abuse;

(4) Necessary, and in the manner prescribed under the subpart to assist Federal or State agencies recognized by the Secretary as having responsibility

42 CFR Ch. IV (10–1–99 Edition)

for identifying cases or patterns involving risks to the public health;

(5) Necessary, and in the manner prescribed under this subpart, to assist appropriate State agencies having responsibility for licensing or certification of providers or practitioners; or

(6) Necessary, and in the manner prescribed under this subpart to assist Federal or State health planning agencies by furnishing them aggregate statistical data on a geographical, institutional or other basis.

[50 FR 15359, Apr. 17, 1985; 50 FR 41886, Oct. 16, 1985]

§ 476.104 Procedures for disclosure by a PRO.

(a) *Notice to accompany disclosure.*

(1) Any disclosure of information under the authority of this subpart is subject to the requirements in § 476.105 relating to the providing of a notice of the disclosure.

(2) Disclosure of confidential information made under the authority of this subpart, except as provided in § 476.106, must be accompanied by a written statement informing the recipient that the information may not be redisclosed except as provided under § 476.107 that limits redisclosure.

(b) *PRO interpretations.* A PRO may provide a statement of comment, analysis, or interpretation to guide the recipient in using information disclosed under this subpart.

(c) *Fees.* A PRO may charge a fee to cover the cost of providing information authorized under this subpart. These fees may not exceed the amount necessary to recover the cost to the PRO for providing the information.

(d) *Format for disclosure of public information.* A PRO is required to disclose public information (§ 476.120(a)(6)) only in the form in which it is acquired by the PRO or in the form in which it is maintained for PRO use.

(e) *Medicare provider number.* A PRO must include the provider identification number assigned by the Medicare program on information that HCFA requests.